

Common rewrite rules

Here is a set of rewrite rules that satisfy the basic needs of the dynamic websites that wish to beautify their page links, thanks to the URL rewriting mechanism. You will obviously need to adjust these rules according to your particular situation, as every website is different.

Performing a search

This rewrite rule is intended for search queries. Search keywords are included in the URL.

Input URI	<code>http://website.com/search/some-search-keywords</code>
Rewritten URI	<code>http://website.com/search.php?q=some-search-keywords</code>
Rewrite rule	<code>rewrite ^/search/(.*)\$ /search.php?q=\$1?;</code>

User profile page

Most dynamic websites that allow the visitors to register, offer a profile view page. URLs of this form, containing both the user ID and the username can be employed.

Input URI	<code>http://website.com/user/31/James</code>
Rewritten URI	<code>http://website.com/user.php?id=31&name=James</code>
Rewrite rule	<code>rewrite ^/user/([0-9]+)/(.+)\$ /user.php?id=\$1&name=\$2?;</code>

Multiple parameters

Some websites may use different syntaxes for the argument string, for example, separating non-named arguments with slashes.

Input URI	<code>http://website.com/index.php/param1/param2/param3</code>
Rewritten URI	<code>http://website.com/index.php?p1=param1&p2=param2&p3=param3</code>
Rewrite rule	<code>rewrite ^/index.php/(.*)/(.*)/(.*)\$ /index.php?p1=\$1&p2=\$2&p3=\$3?;</code>

Wikipedia-like

Many websites have now adopted the URL style introduced by Wikipedia: a prefix folder, followed by an article name.

Input URI	http:// website.com/wiki/Some_keyword
Rewritten URI	http://website.com/wiki/index.php?title=Some_keyword
Rewrite rule	rewrite ^/wiki/(.*)\$ /wiki/index.php?title=\$1?;

News website article

This URL structure is often employed by news websites, as the URLs contain indications to the articles' contents. It is formed of an article identifier, followed by a slash, then a list of keywords. The keywords can usually be ignored and excluded from the rewritten URI.

Input URI	http://website.com/33526/us-economy-strengthens
Rewritten URI	http://website.com/article.php?id=33526
Rewrite rule	rewrite ^/([0-9]+)/.*\$ /article.php?id=\$1?;

Discussion board

Modern bulletin boards now mostly use *pretty URLs*. The following example shows how to create a *topic view* URL with two parameters – the topic identifier and the starting post. Once again, keywords are ignored:

Input URI	http://website.com/topic-1234-50-some-keywords.html
Rewritten URI	http://website.com/viewtopic.php?topic=1234&start=50
Rewrite rule	rewrite ^/topic-([0-9+)]-([0-9+)]-(.*)\.html\$ /viewtopic.php?topic=\$1&start=\$2?;